

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a regular meeting Monday, July 8, 2013, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Elise Dennison
Commissioner Jay Hurley
Commissioner John Christian
Commissioner Bill Polk
Mayor David Knowles

Also present were Interim City Manager (ICM) Ray Sharp, City Clerk (CC) Betty Richardson, City Attorney (CA) Fred Morrison, Deputy City Clerk (DCC) Andi Purvis, the news media, and others.

Mayor Knowles gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Commissioner Dennison read a Proclamation recognizing Police Officer Gustavo Escalante as Officer of the Year for all of Lake County for 2012.

PRESENTATIONS:

Gas Director (GD) Jack Rogers recognized Sammie Fillmore for 25 years of service in the Gas Department.

UPDATE ON CITY MANAGER SEARCH:

ICM Sharp recognized Shawn Baenzinger with Colin Baenzinger & Associates as being present. **Sean Baenzinger** stated they reopened their focus for City Manager applicants by networking and should have several to make the final cut which will close July 15th. He stated they have some new very qualified applicants and feel they would be a good fit for the City of Leesburg. **Commissioner Hurley** asked how many would be presented to the Commission. **Mr. Baenzinger** stated it is difficult to answer as it will depend on the candidates but he thinks probably five to ten. **Commissioner Hurley** asked if these will be new applicants or re-evaluated ones from the current pool. **Mr. Baenzinger** stated these will be mainly new as they are now focusing on a networking search as they now realize exactly what the Commission is looking for.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items pulled for discussion

4.C.1 - Amendment 1 to Task Order No. 3 with DNV

4.C.8 - Agreement with Jeromes Masonry for the Fire Station 2 restroom addition

4.C.9 - Fixed unit cost construction services agreement with C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.

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4.C.10 - Agreement with Theobold Construction, Inc. for the customer service renovations

4.C.11 - Agreement with Villages Roofing and Construction, Inc. for the pond liner replacement at the Turnpike WRF

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the Consent Agenda except for 4.C.1, 4.C.8, 4.C.9, 4.C.10, and 4.C.11 and Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the Consent Agenda, as follows:

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: None

PURCHASING ITEMS:

Purchase request by the Public Works Department for the purchase of Lift Station Controllers from the Sanders Company for a total amount of \$35,600.00.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 9215

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor to sign a GSA-Federal Supply Schedule Purchase Order with Verizon Wireless for cell phone service pricing plan; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9216

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, authorizing the Police Department to accept an Edward Byrne Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to supplement costs associated with the purchase of department equipment; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9217

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, authorizing the Police Department to accept an Edward Byrne Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (JAG) to supplement costs associated with the purchase of department equipment; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9218

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to transfer the property at 2323 Montclair Road to the Leesburg Cemeteries, Inc.; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9219

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Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a fixed unit price agreement with TAG Grinding Services, Inc. as primary contractor for debris removal services emergency response; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9220

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, authorizing execution of a fixed unit price agreement with Grubbs Emergency Services, LLC. as secondary contractor for debris removal services emergency response; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 9221

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement for additional funds to Florida Municipal Power Agency to represent Florida Cities in settlement discussions with Duke Energy Florida, Inc. (Progress Energy Florida, Inc.) regarding Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant negotiations; and providing an effective date.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9222 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT 1 TO TASK ORDER NO. 3 WITH DNV KEMA

Commissioner Christian introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY
CLERK TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT 1 TO TASK ORDER NO. 3
WITH DNV KEMA FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
RELATED TO THE SMART GRID INVESTMENT GRANT (SGIG)
REPORTING FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$49,000.00; AND PROVIDING
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Polk seconded the motion for discussion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Christian stated he noticed under the analysis the City is asking for \$49,000 additional dollars as the City is behind on some of the reporting and asked why the additional funds and whose responsibility was it for the City being behind on its reporting.

ICM Sharp stated originally this firm was under contract to the City to basically perform these reporting services and they did some work some time ago. He stated in the interim the Electric Utility did not use their services and the City fell behind on a number of its reporting requirements. ICM Sharp stated Tuesday the DOE (Department of Energy) will perform a site visit which is an annual follow up to the one from last August. Staff did not want to be in a position of being behind on the same reporting as a year ago so

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asked KEMA to come on board to first complete the work they were already under contract to do. He stated this is really an extension of additional work necessary to bring the City into compliance and part of the task order is to identify the sources of data to help staff formulate the processes so they do not get behind again.

Commissioner Polk stated it sounds like either KEMA did not actually do what they were originally supposed to do or staff did not ask them to do what they were supposed to do.

ICM Sharp stated the City did not ask.

Commissioner Christian asked if this was because of staff not knowing or just not doing and if anyone was written up for not doing their job.

ICM Sharp stated he was not involved at the time so is not certain but thinks staff should have done this. He stated some months ago he asked ED Kalv to undertake moving forward to reactivate KEMA and about a month later they were brought under contract to move forward.

Commissioner Christian stated his concern is that smart grid is too much for the City and the City is not equipped to handle this. He stated \$50,000 is a lot of money to pay someone for a job when they drop the ball and then to now pay an additional \$50,000 to catch the City back up to where it should be; this is just one component to such a large project and it is too much for Leesburg.

ICM Sharp stated in terms of this particular task assignment it is fair to say it is a much larger task than City staff had anticipated at the beginning of the project. It involves several more people than anticipated and candidly staff did not do a good job managing; so some of these dollars are additional work in context to your question but some are there as unused dollars on the existing task order which should have been used all along.

Commissioner Christian asked ICM Sharp if he is confident the City is now on the right track.

ICM Sharp stated he will be able to answer that question by the end of the day Tuesday after the DOE visit. He stated the specific thing he asked KEMA, ED Kalv, and staff involved to do is to catch the City up on reporting and be prepared for the DOE site visit on Tuesday. He stated he met today with KEMA staff, ED Kalv and PIO Sargent, who has also been doing some of this work, and stated he is fairly confident the City is caught up. There are still some questions in one area the City will need to do further negotiations with DOE but stated he is told in this particular area Leesburg is in the same boat as other cities regarding grants and DOE has been and continues to be receptive to those negotiations.

Commissioner Dennison asked if KEMA will help to train personnel so this will not happen again.

ICM Sharp stated yes but not under this task order. He stated he will present another task order to the Commission but wanted to wait until after the DOE audit Tuesday to see where the City is and to work with KEMA to refine the scope. Part of the reporting

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process is when the City received its extension for a year, which it is working on now, but also at the completion of the project there is a two year reporting process. ICM Sharp stated he has asked KEMA to help the City craft its internal processes so staff knows the deadlines, timetables, and so forth as part of its cross training.

Commissioner Polk asked if the money already contracted has been spent and the original time frame expired.

ICM Sharp stated yes on the last accounting sheet there was a small amount remaining of about \$20,000 for an ongoing effort. He stated he believes the original intent was supposed to be an ongoing assistance type of contract using it as time rolled on.

Commissioner Polk asked if this \$49,000 expenditure is going to be enough to accomplish what needs to be done.

ICM Sharp stated yes.

Bill Yandell, Leesburg resident, asked where the City's accountability went. He stated four years ago he stood before this board when the smart grid meter program was starting and asked one question, "Find me one City in the United States who has put this grid in or has done anything close to what they say it will do". Mr. Yandell asked if the City is beginning to see there is nothing smart about the smart grid. He stated now the City wants to increase electric rates five percent for the next three years and stated if the City is trying to run its businesses and residents out of Leesburg this is a good way to do it. He stated smart grid is going to bleed this city to death and officials need to take care of the citizens or the citizens are going to make a change.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Dennison	No
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Four yeas, one nay, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9223 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH JEROMES MASONRY FOR THE FIRE STATION 2 RESTROOM ADDITION

Commissioner Christian introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH JEROMES MASONRY FOR THE FIRE STATION 2 RESTROOM ADDITION FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$93,966.00; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion for discussion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Hurley stated he pulled this item for a more in depth explanation for the public because when looking at \$93,000 for a bathroom it gives you have a heart attack. He stated there are some very important reasons for this renovation and would just like more information so the public will understand the costs incurred with the foundation and low bearing walls.

Interim Public Works Director (IPWD) DC Maudlin stated this is a 14 x 30 extension to the existing building and is primarily the mechanical, electrical and plumbing work needed for the extension. He stated there are three shower facilities to be constructed so there is extensive exterior work extending the foundation, roof, walls, and all the plumbing and electrical work that goes into this. The existing facility has a very small single facility with a sink, toilet and shower altogether with no interior walls only a draw curtain around the shower.

Fire Chief Bowman stated back when this station was built around forty years ago firemen worked there and now there are also female firefighters and OSHA mandates there be different bathing facilities for each sex. He stated station one was renovated last year and hopefully with permission station two will be done this year to meet the OSHA requirements.

Commissioner Hurley asked if the City will have to bring the rest of the facilities up to meet the code once construction starts on the new facilities.

IPWD Maudlin stated the restrooms themselves have to be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Polk asked if the City has any handicapped firefighters.

Chief Bowman stated they do not but have to comply with ADA and this is what the building department has instructed.

Commissioner Christian stated as a public facility anyone entering in a wheel chair needs to be accommodated.

Commissioner Polk stated the memo says water and wastewater will be relocated by their respective utilities and paid out of the project budget and asked why the money is not coming out of the water and wastewater funds.

ICM Sharp stated for clarification this project is being funded by a transfer from the Gas Utility and the reference under the fiscal impact with regards to savings is on two other capital projects. He stated one was a re-roofing project and the other was this one so the savings on the re-roofing project can be applied here to cover the utility cost.

Commissioner Polk asked why the money would not come out of the respective utilities instead of taking it from Gas as they have already moved their service line.

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ICM Sharp stated it has to do with the original funding for the project in the budget.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9224 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A FIXED UNIT COST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH C.W. ROBERTS CONTRACTING, INC.

Commissioner Polk introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A FIXED UNIT COST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH C.W. ROBERTS CONTRACTING, INC. FOR STREET RESURFACING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Polk inquired if C.W. Roberts had contacted anyone before this bid went out and offered the extension of their contract to the City.

Purchasing Manager (PM) Mike Thornton stated he knew of no contact being made.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	No
Commissioner Dennison	No
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Three yeas, two nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9225 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THEOBOLD CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE CUSTOMER SERVICE RENOVATIONS

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Commissioner Hurley introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

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LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY
CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THEOBOLD
CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE CUSTOMER SERVICE
RENOVATIONS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$111,500.97; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Hurley moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion for discussion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Christian stated he does not want to micro manager but when looking at the two bids some of the numbers are way off for instance on wood and plastic Theobold had \$860 but Jeromes Masonry had \$12,700. He stated either someone is not using wood and plastic or is using wood and plastic and put the amounts in the wrong spot. This looks like the bids are actually for two different projects.

PM Thornton stated typically staff does not compare the different divisions but looks at the whole contract amount because they are expecting the contractors to put the correct numbers where they should be. He stated some may include finishes while another contractor may not or they may have a better source for cabinet case work where the other one may to have sub-contract it out.

Commissioner Christian stated his concern is the project gets underway and someone comes in and says oops I forgot to put in the windows and doors and asked who at the staff level is going to hold the contractors feet to the fire. He stated he is just a little leery with the two bids being so out of whack with each other.

PM Thornton stated the City did provide plans and specifications as to how the project was to be constructed and assured the Commission that the contracted amount is the \$111,500. He stated the project manager will certainly hold the contractor's feet to the fire for the construction as specified in the plans.

Commissioner Polk agreed there are many differences for example on specialty items Theobold has \$3,800 and Jeromes does not have anything and asked being so varied how does the City know what it is getting. He stated he does not understand if bidding on windows, doors, and cabinets they are all the same or did the bid not specify what kind of materials should be used and this caused the variation in the numbers.

ICM Sharp stated the bid specifications and drawings were complete and did specify the requirements for the individual components. It is not unusual to see differences in the itemized values for example in general conditions Theobold has about \$18,000 and Jeromes has about half that amount. He stated in many cases it is just a matter of how the contractor chooses to price, whether they are using a sub-contractor to provide services, or do it in house with their own staff. He stated Mike Cavanaugh is the City's project

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manager and is very deliberate to make sure the City gets what it pays for and stated if the bid is \$111,500 then that is what he expects the City to pay for the delivered project.

Commissioner Christian stated he would like to make sure staff holds the contractor to the \$111,500 as he would hate to look at this project three months from now and be told the price is now \$140,000. He stated this renovation is needed because the Florida League of Cities came in and said this needed to be done for safety purposes and at the end of the day he does not want to see the City in a law suit for not protecting its employees or the contractor for not fulfilling their obligations.

Commissioner Hurley stated he knows in his business there are some things which can be purchased better or cheaper if buying in bulk so in some areas one contractor may be able to get windows cheaper than the other guy.

CA Morrison stated for the Commission's benefit he would point out the contract document requires the contractor to provide performance payment bonds so if they do something that does not get the job done for \$111,500 then the performance payment bonds step in.

Commissioner Polk stated the inspector is going to have to spend a lot of time checking on the contractor because once the walls go up it is too late.

Commissioner Christian asked what the procedure is once this is approved and the project begins on the staff level.

ICM Sharp stated in general if there is a change order less than five percent or a certain dollar amount then that is staff level approval but once a change order exceeds the threshold or change orders in aggregate exceed the amount then all subsequent change orders need to come before the Commission for approval.

PM Thornton stated it is five percent or \$25,000 accumulative of all change orders.

Commissioner Polk stated this project has been talked about for a couple of years and asked if there are current plans to refresh memories.

ICM Sharp stated an abbreviated set of plans was provided with two drawings, one the existing to show what will be demolished and the second one shows what is being constructed. He stated the waiting area, customer service area, lobby and vestibule are being remodeled but nothing else on the first floor.

Don Lukich asked due to the economic times and the budget constraints mentioned at all the commission meetings if this project is really necessary at this time.

Carolyn VanDyken stated she does not think right now is the time to spend this kind of money when the public is constantly hearing the City has no money and cannot do anything for recreation but when it comes to customer service at City Hall then it is yes. She said she heard safety for employees mentioned but last time she checked it is pretty safe around City Hall noting even the bank down the street does not have any safeguards with glass or protection you just walk right in. She then stated she started thinking and

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with the possibility of a utility rate hike coming maybe employees are afraid of all the angry residents who are going to come storming into City Hall when they get their new utility bills.

Bill Yandell stated he does not see how is this going to improve anything at City Hall other than having a really nice pretty area to walk into. He stated we have to look into where our money is going and he does not see this happening. He also asked before approving this agenda on a utility rate hike a publication be placed in with the power bills to let every resident see the type of rate increase and how the City is going to spend its money. Mr. Yandell stated our citizens have the right to know what is coming up and too many times they find out after it has been done.

Commissioner Polk asked if the existing closed drive up doors are going to remain or be petitioned off.

ICM Sharp stated they are closed and will remain for an emergency exit.

Commissioner Christian suggested someone from Customer Service give an update on why this project is being done.

Customer Accounts Manager (CAM) Lori Beach stated back in 2011 FMPA came to Leesburg and conducted a survey of the organization and found security was lacking and then in 2009 the Facto law and privacy issues were mandated. She stated right now when a customer talks about their account there are also customers standing in a long line to make payments with no privacy for those discussing account information. The new call center greeting area will establish privacy to where account information will not be heard by others. Signage will also help with directing the large crowds and making the area flow more efficiently.

Commissioner Polk stated this is not necessarily for gun safety it is for privacy in the account information security process.

CAM Beach stated absolutely; the way it is now we have customers waiting in chairs, customers being served and customers making payments and they are all grouped together so the conversations can be overheard. She stated with this design it will consolidate the customers into one area and with a number system to make it more efficient for all customers to handle their business privately.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9226 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VILLAGES ROOFING AND

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CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE POND LINER REPLACEMENT AT THE TURNPIKE WRF

Commissioner Christian introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VILLAGES ROOFING AND CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE POND LINER REPLACEMENT AT THE TURNPIKE WRF FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$231,750.00; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Polk seconded the motion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Christian asked for clarification on Village Roofing doing a pond liner replacement.

PM Thornton stated the Public Works Department required the contractor to hold a general contractors license which Village Roofing does and they will be subcontracting out the actual replacement work.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

OTHER ITEMS: None

ADOPTED ORDINANCE 13-23 EXTENDING THE EXISTING WAIVER OF CITY IMPACT FEES UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

City Clerk Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, EXTENDING THE EXISTING WAIVER ON COLLECTION OF CITY IMPACT FEES UP TO A SPECIFIED AMOUNT PER PROJECT, UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2013; SETTING FORTH LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, CONTINUING THE SUSPENSION OF COLLECTION OF WATER, WASTEWATER, AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES IMPACT FEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM EXPIRATION OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE SUSPENDING COLLECTION, UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30,

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2013; ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF IMPACT FEES WHICH MAY BE WAIVED ON ANY SINGLE PROJECT, LIMITING THE WAIVER OF IMPACT FEES UNDER THIS ORDINANCE TO PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, PROVIDING FOR REINSTATEMENT OF IMPACT FEES COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2013, REQUIRING PAYMENT OF IMPACT FEES SUSPENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE IF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR THE PROJECT IS NOT ISSUED WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE PROJECT, PERMITTING NEGOTIATION OF IMPACT FEES ON CERTAIN PROJECTS AS PART OF AN OVERALL ECONOMIC INCENTIVE PACKAGE, PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the ordinance and Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and audience.

Bennett Walling stated he has a couple of projects under way now and asked if this implementation will be subject to the building permit being issued or subject to the application for approval.

CA Morrison stated impact fees are and historically were paid at the time of the building permit application and if the projects are under way this would not affect them.

Bennett Walling stated the projects are just now in the beginning phase but if not ready to pull a building permit on September 30th asked if the impact fees can be pre-paid.

CA Morrison stated if the project design is to the point where you are eligible to obtain the building permit then you can file but if filing after September 30th then impact fees would need to be paid.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Polk	No
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Mayor Knowles	Yes

Four yeas, one nay, the Commission adopted the ordinance.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SUB SECTIONS OF SECTION 22 - 196 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA PERTAINING TO ELECTRIC RATES

Commissioner Polk introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AMENDING CERTAIN SUBSECTIONS OF §22 – 196 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO ELECTRIC RATES, INCREASING THE RATES IN SCHEDULES RS (RESIDENTIAL SERVICE), GS (GENERAL SERVICE NON _ DEMAND), GSD (GENERAL SERVICE DEMAND), AND TOU (TIME OF USE); PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASES OF 5% PER YEAR FOR 2014 AND 2015; SPECIFYING HOW THE ANNUAL 5% RATE INCREASES IN 2013, 2014 AND 2015 ARE TO BE APPLIED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUTOMATIC INCREASES SPECIFIED IN §22 – 166 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PRESERVING §22 – 196 EXCEPT AS AMENDED HEREBY; REPEALING ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Polk stated he does not want to go five percent for three years because the City does not know what it will run into after the first year and suggested a one year five percent increase and then review. He stated for three years it is a total of fifteen percent and does not think our citizens can afford this and sooner or later people are going to move out of Leesburg and it will be a ghost town.

Commissioner Christian asked for clarification as he remembers the City had a schedule for incremental increases and instead of the full increase went a little lower and thinks this may have hurt the City financially with its electric rates.

ICM Sharp stated Commissioner Christian is correct and basically there were two things that happened. Back in 2007 as part of the financial feasibility analysis for the 2007 bond issue that study identified a need to do an eleven percent rate increase in 2008 and a three percent rate increase in each of the successive years. In 2008 the City did an eight percent rate increase but not the full eleven percent and apart from the annual indexing adjustments in each of the years it never came back to make sure it got the three percent necessary. He stated overall by 2012 it totaled up to about two point two million dollars of lost revenue and it is not possible to go back and recover that money. ICM Sharp stated the significance of the two point two million dollars is that our fund balance started that much lower than it should have otherwise. He stated as you look at the financial feasibility analysis for the current bond issue of refinancing and when looking at going forward what we find is if the City does not make any adjustments two things happen; first the electric utility fund balance continues to decline in successive years and second pretty quickly the utility no longer meets its fund balance requirement because of that decline so this needs to be corrected. The City cannot have the utility with a fund balance that continues to decline and from the aspect of the General Fund having a utility not meet its fund balance requirements means the utility cannot make its transfers to the general fund. He stated in the case of electric this is about a five million dollar transfer and the general fund cannot absorb a five million dollar hit so the City needs to make the rate adjustments. ICM Sharp proposed the City make the rate adjustments which are inclusive of the index adjustments year by year so it does not fall into the same situation it had from the 2007 bond issue. ICM Sharp stated to answer Commissioner Polk's

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question a moment ago, if the City only does an increase for one year it will be back here a year from now doing the same analysis and having to do another five percent or whatever the number will be next year. He stated from the aspect of the utility and financial stability of both the utility and the general fund it is best in general to do a rate ordinance that covers three years.

Commissioner Polk stated on page nine of the report it says the 2008 to 2012 loss unaccounted for KWH increase sixty percent and then it shows on page ten where it would come out to be stable somewhat maybe going up two percent. Fifteen thousand to twenty-three thousand in four years is a tremendous drop in load and then in the prediction for 2018 it is only possibly a two percent loss which is a normal average loss per year. He asked how the City got that much load loss.

Electric Director (ED) Paul Kalv stated the system losses which include line, transformer, theft, and unaccounted for in general have been consistent over the years at four percent. He stated it is a statistic you cannot look at one year compared to the next year because there is a month of very high use followed by a month of low use and staff looks at the twelve month rolling average.

Commissioner Polk stated the City lost power somewhere and now seems to hit on staying stable but what happened to all the power in the past years.

ED Kalv stated he did not have the answer now but will research it and come back with the answer.

Commissioner Polk asked where Leesburg stands compared to other cities.

ED Kalv stated FEMA publishes a rate comparison each month and looking at the April 2013 rate comparison for 1000 kilowatt hours, which is an industry standard rate comparison, the City of Leesburg's rate for a 1000 kilowatt hours is \$123.53 and the average for all municipalities in Florida is \$121.33, so Leesburg's rate is \$2.20 a 1000 kilowatt hours above average. He stated in 2009 Leesburg was the fifth highest cost per 1000 kilowatt hour utility in the state and our goal at the time was to bring our rates back to the municipal average. Ultimately, with the customer's participation in reducing the largest component of the utility which is the demand component of our sole power supply bill the City would have the opportunity to lower those rates. He stated the City has now saved six million dollars of wholesale power supply costs since 2009. ED Kalv stated no utility wants to raise rates; they would like to brag about having the lowest rate within the State but the financial health of the utility is a fair amount of importance.

Commissioner Polk stated he voted for everything that went along with the smart grid project but the fact of the matter is this is what is biting the City right now. He stated it may take the City three years to figure out if it did good or bad on this thing. Commissioner Polk apologize to the public stating he did not know what he knows now but the City may have gotten in over its head with smart grid and is now having to pay the piper.

Commissioner Christian stated the City is out about ten million dollars and asked if anyone sees it recouping this money with this system.

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ED Kalv stated since 2009 the City has implemented strategies which have been targeted to reduce the demand components not the energy use but the demand component of its wholesale power supply. He stated this was started when a kilowatt hour on peak cost \$12.00 and is now \$25.00 to \$27.20 for one kilowatt hour during the peak hour and residents need to curb the appetite for electricity during those hottest hours during the month because it is a recurring opportunity every month to lower that component. He stated the City cannot do it; it is our customers who use the power which causes the peak to be so high and all the municipalities, not saying Leesburg is unique in this, because all fourteen municipalities in this project pay the same high rate.

Commissioner Polk stated Leesburg is unique because if it had not been for ED Kalv doing what he is doing along with his staff and people now the City would be in worse shape financially.

Ed Kalv stated there are three emphasis areas in the smart grid project: 1) to improve reliability, 2) to improve the relays to keep the power on, and 3) time of use rates. He stated the City is now ready to pilot the last phase of its smart grid project with those customers who want to partner with us by installing programmable communicating thermostats.

Commissioner Christian asked when this program starts.

ED Kalv stated staff is planning to push the pilot of the programmable thermostats out around the end of July.

Commissioner Christian stated he knows there was talk about educating the public but has not seen the big push for education on the programmable thermostats. He stated he has not seen the large market plan go to the website and for him staff should be sending this out in the utility bills, emails, Channel 22 things that are free and inexpensive so our customer can see and be prepared.

ED Kalv stated he agrees completely and the lesson learned in meter installation is you cannot get too far ahead of what is actually capable of being done. He stated the City's partner is having some difficulty now with the meter in management systems getting that up, running and functioning properly. The time differentiated rates cannot be done manually it has to be done with the assistance of the meter feeding the information of when the power was used and at this time there are more than 150 customers saying they want to participate in the pilot. He stated staff is planning to run the pilot for two months and assuming it is successful in getting out the bills correctly and showing what customers are capable of saving during those peak hours then absolutely there will be a huge push. He stated some customers say they are fine with the way things are and being comfortable is more important than saving money but the project from the beginning has been about offering choices.

Mayor Knowles asked if Publix, Wal-Mart, and the Hospital have all been happy customers saving money.

ED Kalv stated Publix and the Hospital were the City's first two large customers to participate then when Wal-Mart saw what was happening they installed generators

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specifically to get in on the action. The hospital bought the old BB&T bank and put their IT center in there and have a nice generator staff calls on to exercise during peak hours and from what he understands Home Depot and Target are also interested in joining the project. ED Kalv stated there are a few customers who are helping a lot but what is really needed are a lot of customers helping a little and offering this opportunity he does not know what the savings are going to be as it will depend upon how much the peak demand is curtailed. He stated this is not about energy savings it is about curtailing the use of electricity during the two hour period considered to be the potential coincident peak hours. He also stated the peak rate is from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the City is trying to offer choices and let customers decide what they are willing and able to do to work with us.

Mayor Knowles asked if staff has been able to buy transformers and other equipment at reduces prices because it was smart equipped and what a transformer costs.

ED Kalv stated the two station transformers purchased were fifty cents on the dollar and a transformer cost \$800,000.

Mayor Knowles stated so the City is buying them at fifty cents on a dollar and saving \$400,000.

ED Kalv stated that is correct.

Commissioner Dennison asked should a customer choose not want to participate in this program what the effect is going to be on what has already been spent by the City versus any savings.

Ed Kalv stated the spending already made has been primarily capital on infrastructure, smart meters, and equipment so we have pure in cost interest on those items going forward. The contract with General Electric for hosting those services going into the future for the next ten years escalates every year and so it is incumbent upon the City to communicate to offer the benefits to those customers who want to participate and if they do not participate then that is going to be a problem. He stated other utilities which have been successful with this program have a huge number of customers participating in their demand response program and Leesburg is modeling its program after those utilities.

Commissioner Christian asked if the City is reaching out to the big customers or waiting on them to contact us.

ED Kalv stated the City wants to reach out to the residential and small commercial industrial customers but will partner with any customer and there is a lot of reaching out but not a lot of taking at this time. He stated he has been talking with Lowe's for three years and they cannot even find the person at corporate who can make the decisions to run the generator they already have in place.

Bill Yandell stated the City does not need smart transformers it needs squirrel proof transformers. He stated the agenda says the City is going to spend \$900,000 for General Electric services next year yet in the budget it costs two million dollars; the people of Leesburg need to know this. The escalating cost is because this is the way GE writes

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contracts and he stated the way to get rid of them is to just tell them to go away and take a hike because the one thing they fear the most is bad publicity. Money has been spent on switches and transformers for the smart grid but cannot be used because the system has not been implemented. He stated the fact it is fifty cents on a dollar it is not fifty cents on the dollar because everyone in this room paid for the other fifty cents through our paychecks; why are we not recognizing that. He stated when looking at the rates our actual effective rate for electricity is eleven cents per kilowatt hour which is shared here at the city, and then you turn around and ask for a service fee and buy bulk rates. Mr. Yandell stated he has to buy electricity, water, and gas from the City and not only do we do that but at the end of the deal we turn around and have to pay a service tax. The City is taxing the very product it is selling to its citizens and not only does it make a profit but then you come back and tell the citizens we have one of the lowest rates around it is not so and this proves it. Mr. Yandell stated his business cannot shut down from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon and neither can many other businesses. He stated one place talked about with these smart meters is Oklahoma which does not have the humidity like it is here in central Florida. If the electricity is cut off or the air conditioner cut down at 3:00 in the afternoon every piece of material in your home becomes a sponge and you will eat up as much electricity or more trying to ring the humidity out, not to mention the mold and mildew which come along with it. Mr. Yandell asked the Commission to look closely at its options to get out of this contract because two years from now this will not be an option. He stated the smart meter is a bad decision, bad timing, causing every citizen here money out of their pocket. He stated he has the confidence the Commission can make the right decisions but hopes it does not do what has been done before with the rubber stamp.

Mayor Knowles stated he believes we may have mixed apples and oranges a little on this one. He thanked FD Spinelli for reviewing this with the Commissioners on what would happen if this or that was done and the long and short of it is in the past the City did not take the rate increases which would have kept it on an even keel and so now we are looking at some tough decisions. He stated the good news is this is the first reading and it be brought up again in two weeks.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REZONING APPROXIMATELY 55 ACRES SOUTH OF DIXIE AVENUE AND EAST OF LAKE STREET

Commissioner Christian introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 55 ACRES OF AN EXPIRED CITY PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) TO A NEW CITY PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) TO ALLOW A MIXED USE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF DIXIE AVENUE AND EAST OF LAKE STREET, AS LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 19, RANGE 24, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN EXHIBIT A; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (REDUS Florida Land, LLC/Venetian Isle)

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Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 44

Commissioner Christian introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES AND BEING GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 44, LYING IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, WHICH IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT SAID PROPERTY SO ANNEXED SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ITS PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE EXISTING AND FUTURE INDEBTEDNESS OF SAID CITY; PROVIDING THAT SUCH ANNEXED PROPERTY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF SAID CITY AS IF ALL SUCH TERRITORY HAD BEEN A PART OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG AT THE TIME OF PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF SAID LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING THAT SUCH ANNEXED TERRITORY SHALL BE PLACED IN CITY COMMISSION DISTRICT 3; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Service Electric Company).

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES

Commissioner Polk introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG, CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES, BEING GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 44, LYING IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FROM COUNTY URBAN EXPANSION TO CITY INDUSTRIAL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Service Electric Company)

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Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REZONING APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES ON THE WEST SIDE OF EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 44

Commissioner Polk introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 3.1 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 44, LYING IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 19 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FROM COUNTY LM (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) TO CITY M-1 (INDUSTRIAL); AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Service Electric Company)

Mayor Knowles requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

DENIED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH WILL DAN FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR A FIRE ASSESSMENT STUDY

Commissioner Dennison introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WILL DAN FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR A FIRE ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$62,500; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the resolution. The motion dies for lack of second to the motion.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS: None

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS: None

CITY MANAGER ITEMS:

ICM Sharp stated preparations are being made to repaint the interior of the Community Building and the two paint choices are a light grey and an ivory color with staff recommending the ivory color. The Commission unanimously approved the ivory color.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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Kathleen Huggins stated she and her husband went to watch the fireworks and parked legally on a side street and while in their car they were approached by a man who told them they had to move and if they did not move he was going to call the Police. She said they told the man we are legally parked and have a right to be here and he continued to ask them to leave and continued to threaten to call the police so they told him to go ahead. When the police officer arrived he told the man we were perfectly legal to park there, it was the fourth of July and those streets were going to be parked on both directions and tried to talk the man into a reasonable outcome. She said at which time the man asked us, "Do you know who I am?" and she said no I do not. He said he was Bill Polk, a city commissioner, and then the police officer came over to our car and said you understand the situation I am in. Mrs. Huggins then asked him are you saying this gentleman basically is your boss and he said it is just a difficult situation; you are allowed to park here and have every right to be here. She stated most of the people who parked there were already out of their cars. She is visually impaired and they chose to stay in the car and there was an elderly couple who was parked in front of them. She stated they did move on and she would just like to know if there is one set of rules for the citizens of this city and another set for a commissioner who did not want people to part in front of his home.

Mayor Knowles thanked Mrs. Huggins for her comments and stated he would let Commissioner Polk respond during roll call or if he wishes, as is his privilege, to bring this up at another time.

Clay Bell, with Professional Water Cleanup, stated he was present a couple weeks ago and was told to come back on the 8th and the Commission would have an answer for him on the issue of Leesburg's water way vegetation control.

ICM Sharp stated each Commissioner should have received a report on this subject. The question was asked what the City has been doing about the aquatic leaf vegetation since the other contract expired and the City has been using the former contractor on a month by month basis and has spent about \$9,500 year to date. He stated also for some work in the Venetian Gardens area Mr. Bell's firm was actually placed under contract and the City has spent about \$12,500 for the work done there. ICM Sharp stated staff is nearing the point of having rewritten or revised the bid specifications for re-advertising the original bid.

Mr. Bell stated he is grateful for the work and does not care which company gets the bid. Mayor Knowles asked Mr. Bell if his company was going to do the clean up on Monkey Island.

Mr. Bell stated he has not heard anything about Monkey Island.

Bill Yandell thanked the Police Department for two things; the problem a year ago in Palmora Park during Halloween with the chainsaw man when the Police really came through for all the young children making sure it was safe and good environment and with the fireworks this year showing marked improvements with the traffic and parking.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Polk stated from the telephone calls he received people thought the fireworks were a little short this year and he did have some issues with parking and people in the neighborhood. He stated he discussed these with the Police Chief and

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thinks he will address it at a future time. The fireworks did go off good, the ball game was cancelled just after three innings but everything else went pretty well.

Commissioner Dennison stated she had an opportunity today to go out to Lone Oak Cemetery and meet with Meredith Kirste and Midge Dodge and was very impressed by the work they are doing there as far as maintenance. She stated it was a learning experience and wanted to thank them very much. She stated she was not on the Commission when smart grid was being discussed and stated she is not in favor of smart grid; however, because of the amount of money the City has spent and how far along she does hopes it works. She stated she would like to know now or in the near future how long the City is going to keep this going before it makes a decision of yeah or nay. The City is sinking a lot of money into this project and for something that sounds a lot like UN Agenda 21 it sounds like big government so she has a personnel objection to this but does for the sake of Leesburg hope it works. **ICM Sharp** said as ED Kalv indicated earlier tonight the City is entering into a pilot project period and will test two things; one the time of use rates implemented a few months ago, and two test the programmable communicating thermostats (pct). He stated staff will test these in the real world and see what kinds of responses are received. ICM Sharp stated on the next commission agenda will be an item for a task assignment with FEMA, the same technology coach throughout, to look at the General Electric contract in particular the hosting services contract to look at whether the City has any options there because it is one of the significant costs going forward. He stated he does not know the answer to Commissioner Dennison's question but can say the City is moving forward with doing some of right things to help answer questions.

Commissioner Christian commended Police Chief Chrisman for going out to get the in-car video cameras for the police vehicles. He stated back on Easter a member of his church called him to say they were tasered in Orange County and it was a \$100 settlement for excessive force. Commissioner Christian thinks the City's budget should allow for training by the Human Resources staff to the Police officers because of the situation with our citizen earlier on the fourth of July. He stated for the new officers they need the proper diversity training especially in dealing with the diverse population of Leesburg. He also commended the Chief on his recruitment as when he visited his son at Tallahassee A&M he was talking to one of their friends who is graduating in May with a Criminal Justice Degree who stated she said just wants to be a police officer and said Hillsborough County has offered to pay for her training and testing. Commissioner Christian encouraged her to come to Leesburg and talk with our Chief who gave her a tour and top treatment while here and though she loved Leesburg the salary is not what Hillsborough is offering. He stated he thinks the City's recruitment, if we really want to get a diversified police department, cannot just put ads on the internet, we need to recruit at the universities because the people who grew up in Leesburg are not going to want police their neighborhood friends and throw them in jail. The City needs to do better recruitment as it did with our Fire Department when it started hiring African American firefighters. He stated he thinks the City is lacking in the Police department of recruiting African American police officers and stated this could be a large part of the problem in these types of situations where police officers do not know how to deal with African American population of our city. Commissioner Christian asked if at the Long Oak Cemetery if anyone has started construction on the Eyes property before the Commission voted tonight because he saw a fence going up, dumpsters out there and some work being

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done. He stated the Commission just voted tonight to transfer this property so his question is did someone start doing work prior to the commission making a formal vote. **ICM Sharp** stated the only thing he is aware of at the Cemetery is the City provided some old surplus fencing from the last airport project and a fencing company volunteered to install it. **Commissioner Christian** stated he thinks in the future before any work is done whether volunteer or whatever it should wait until the Commission gives its approval. **ICM Sharp** stated the fencing had been in the works for quite some months the City was simply waiting for a time when it could be declared surplus from the airport site. He stated staff will have to look into the dumpster issue.

Commissioner Hurley thanked all City employees and staff who worked so hard down at Venetian Gardens to prepare everything for the July 4th celebration your efforts went way above and beyond. He stated he knows there are a lot of emotions shown as the City goes through first and second readings and a good example tonight is with the Fire Station expansion of restrooms. The Commission is trying to focus on getting things done and yes money is needed for playgrounds and parks but we all need to look at the big picture and see where we are going and hopefully with a lot of prayer the City is headed in the right direction. Commissioner Hurley stated he has officially been on the job now for six months and has been asking the question what the City has been successfully able to achieve in his first six months. He is hoping to have the master planning session soon and stated he does worry about Leesburg becoming a ghost town not just because utility rates are going up but the focus needs to be on why our citizens want to go to other communities and ask some hard questions. Commissioner Hurley stated he would like to know the current position with the Fire training facility. **ICM Sharp** stated at the moment we are waiting for the County to get a response from their engineering firm, who is not being responsive, with regards to what is necessary to do the improvements at the Sunny Side facility to bring it into compliance. **Commissioner Hurley** stated now that it has been pointed out and made very clear the training facility is within the city limits asked if Leesburg is going to take responsibility to bring it up to code or just say waiting on the County as it is their deal so not going to hold their feet to the fire. **ICM Sharp** stated the deadline he left with Chief Bowman was to come back by the end of the month with some joint something or other from Chief Jolliff at the County. He stated in the meantime he needs to spend some time with the County Manager talking about a number of issues with the facility relating from zoning to land use and sort out at the manager level what it is the City needs to do, and what the County is willing or not willing to do. **Commissioner Hurley** stated if the public is going to come to the Commission meetings and ask point blank question as Commissioners we are only responsible for ourselves. He stated he cannot be responsible for anyone else and so from his perspective no there are not two separate sets of rules in Leesburg and stated personally he is sorry for Mrs. Huggins experience.

Mayor Knowles stated he thought the fourth of July went very well although the weather was not particularly good with 50 to 60 mile an per hour winds on the lake but it all came together. He stated he was very proud of the barge; Cutrale donated the barrels, Romac donated the wood, Joe Shipes put in some things, and Electric Services donated forty-five guys to come down on Saturday to assemble. He stated Commissioner Polk came down to direct traffic and he pretty much tried to stay out of everyone's way. The fireworks group said Leesburg's barge was one of the best barges they have worked on all year which Mayor Knowles stated made him proud. He stated he would still like to see golf

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carts running around in south Leesburg not to name a community. He also stated he hopes to see Clay Bell's company out clearing weeds at Monkey Island not because he does not like him but because he would like to see Monkey Island fixed up. Mayor Knowles suggested he would like to see the City move its Light up Leesburg to Friday December 8th or 9th and have the Boat Club do their boat parade the same evening and maybe get the downtown partnership to get some food service out there and have a spectacular Christmas time. He stated he sees there is another community which does not recognize prayer before their commission meetings but he thinks Leesburg can always start its meeting with a little prayer and he is looking forward to Christmas that is correct, Christmas. Mayor Knowles stated he received a complaint on the fence at Lone Oak from a nameless source saying it looked terrible. **ICM Sharp** stated the fence was free. **Mayor Knowles** also stated he received another complaint about potholes on Main Street West of US Highway 27 but knows this is the County not the City. He also stated as to fire safety he agrees he would like to see the Sunny Side facility up to quality but his concern is how it is inspected after being built. **Commissioner Christian** stated they have ways to do it. **Mayor Knowles** stated since the training facility was built in Leesburg without our knowledge he would like to see the County bring it up to standards.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Christian moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Polk seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Betty M. Richardson
City Clerk

J. Andi Purvis
Recorder